(c) The Indian export of Hot Rolled Flat Steel products would get adversely affected if the anti dumping duty imposed by Thailand continues. In fact export of Hot Rolled Flat Steel products to Thailand from SAIL has been nil since the imposition of anti dumping duty.

(d) Investigations initiated by Thailand pertain to anti-dumping and not anti-subsidy and the Indian exporters have decided to respond to the petition individually. In so far as SAIL is concerned, they proposed a minimum price undertaking but the Thai Government has not agreed to the same.

Closure of Mahamaya mines of BSP

†464. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for closure of 'Mahamaya' mines of Bhilai Steel Plant; and

(b) the details of present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The Mahamaya Mines has been closed as mining lease for Mahamaya Mines expired on 3.11.2001. The application for renewal of the mining lease was made in advance on 2.11.2000 to Collector, Durg and for forestry clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to District Forest Officer, Durg on 15.11.2000. Final approval for mining operations is still awaited. However, mining operations are being intermittently carried out on the basis of temporary working permissions.

Revival of IISCO

465. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Russian Government has refused to invest in the ailing Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) as a part of the revival project lying with the IDBI which is the operating agency of the SAIL; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and what other steps Government propose to take regarding this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The Revival package being considered by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) does not envisage any investment from the Government of Russia. The implementation of the package is awaiting the approval of Board for Industrial and Financial Restructuring (BIFR).

Setting up of Steel Plants in Orissa

466. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to set up new Steel Plants in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the proposals under the consideration of Government; and

(c) the details of places identified for the establishment of new steel plants in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) In the New Industrial Policy announced in the July 1991, steel industry has been delicensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up of iron and steel plants and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement.

Pending proposals of Chhattisgarh

†467. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposal received till date from Sports and Youth Welfare Department of Chhattisgarh Government and pending before Central Government for approval;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.